

CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE
BOARD OF MANAGERS
DECEMBER 13, 2010 MEETING

STAFF REPORT

TO: BOARD OF MANAGERS
FROM: SHANA R. DAVIS-COOK, VILLAGE MANAGER 
DATE: 12/9/2010
SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO FORM A DESIGN AND USE PLAN FOR THE WEST KIRKE STREET/LAUREL PARKWAY TRIANGULAR PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

Residents were very vocal and concerned about the status of the greenspace located where the public rights-of-way of West Kirke Street and Laurel Parkway meet across from the main entrance to the Village Hall.

In 2007, the Village commissioned a landscape design firm to work with a panel of residents—West Kirke Street resident and member of the Village Parks and Tree Committees, Susie Eig; Hesketh Street resident and Chair of the Parks Committee, Alice Kinter; and immediately confronting West Kirke Street resident, Anne Shields—to work with the Village Manager to design a landscape plan for this area, and to increase safe pedestrian access to the Village Hall. The final plan is attached for your reference.

The Village began implementation of the first phase of the plan, which included the removal of several trees, plantings and the split-rail fence surrounding the area, and reorientation of the network of sidewalks within the area. The newly located sidewalks were used as a test site for brick paver samples, which Village residents were asked to vote for their preference in the 2009 triennial Resident Survey. These sidewalks were installed with the understanding that they would be removed once a final sidewalk had been approved by the Village Board.

As residents expressed at the Board's meeting in November 2010, the area is currently almost barren compared to its previous state and does not serve the community well as one of (if not the) the main entrances into the Village.

Accordingly, and after hearing the resident outcry for the Village to proceed with an enhancement of this area, I recommend formation of a Design and Use Plan Group for the West Kirke Street/Laurel Parkway Triangular Public Right-of-Way. Susie Eig, one of the members of the original review panel, along with Grove Street resident and Parks Committee Member Bliss Ryan and West Kirke Street resident Tom Toch have already come forward to volunteer for the group, membership on which would certainly be open to the general public. This group could be directed by the Board to review the original plan for the area to determine what, if any, portions should be preserved and how the plan can be enhanced to provide a fitting entrance point to the community and a safe pedestrian access to the Village Hall, and then provide its recommendations to the Board for approval, cost analysis and implementation.